



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

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Week Ending September 16, 2007

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This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa and click on "Pennsylvania Publications."

Good week for Field Work: Last week many farmers had a great opportunity to get some field work done. The week started out warm, and ended with temperatures as low as 65 in some areas. Thirty-four percent of the fall plowing has been completed. Overall, 5 days were suitable for field work and principal farm activities included baling straw, fall plowing, filling silos, mowing pastures, preparing for fall seeding, repairing equipment, making hay, chopping corn for silage, planting wheat and barley, and harvesting oats, corn, potatoes, tobacco, apples, and peaches.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending September 16, 2007

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
15	26	59	0

Crops: One hundred percent of corn has reached the dough stage. This is 4 points higher than this time last year and 6 points higher than the 5-year average. Eighty-five percent of the corn has now entered the dent stage. This is 2 percentage points lower than this time last year and 7 points higher than the 5-year average. Fifty-three percent of the corn crop has reached maturity. This is 19 percentage points higher than the previous week. It's also 11 and 15 points higher than the previous year and 5-year average respectively. Corn conditions show that 51 percent of the corn crop is in good or excellent condition. Fifty-eight percent of the corn for silage has been harvested. This is 6 points lower than this time last year and 1 point higher than the 5-year average. Forty-eight percent of the soybeans are in good or excellent condition. Winter wheat planting began last week! Right now 8 percent of the wheat crop has been planted. This is 1 point lower than this time last year and the five year average. Twenty-nine percent of the potato crop has been harvested. Currently our potato harvest is 21 percentage points behind the 5-year average and 18 points behind this time last year. Eighty-three percent of the tobacco crop has been harvested. This is 5 percentage points higher than the previous year but 4 points lower than the 5-year average. Eighty-one percent of the hay made was in good or excellent condition as 49 percent of the fourth cuttings of alfalfa have been completed. Eighty-six percent of the second cutting of timothy hay has also been completed.

Pennsylvania's fruit crop looks very promising this season! Fifty-five percent of the apples have now been harvested, which is 7 points higher than this time last year and 13 points higher than the 5-year average. Ninety-four percent of the apples are in good or excellent condition.

Livestock: Twenty-one percent of the state's pastures are in good or excellent condition. Overall pasture conditions were reported as follows: very poor 11%, poor 25%, fair 43%, good 19%, and excellent 2%.

U.S. as of September 9, 2007: Temperatures were warmer than average in all areas of the country. Widely scattered showers fell across portions of the Pacific Coast and Intermountain Regions with a narrow band in the Rocky Mountains receiving rainfall amounting to two to four inches. Farther east, from the panhandle of Texas, stretching northeast through the Corn Belt, heavier rains brought abundant moisture with some areas receiving more than 4 inches in the southern Plains and Lower Mississippi Valley. The Southeast and Atlantic Coast remained mostly dry and warm, except isolated portions of southern Florida and coastal portions of Georgia and South Carolina, which gained between 1 and 4 inches of moisture during the week.

Corn: Ninety percent of corn acres were at or beyond the dent stage, 42 percent reached maturation, and 8 percent was harvested by the end of the week. As the dent stage neared completion 1 point ahead of last year and 9 points ahead of normal, corn was maturing ahead of the 5-year average by 13 points. With rapid advancement across the Corn Belt, Illinois' crop was 33 percent ahead of normal and the crop in the rest of the Corn Belt, excluding Ohio, was also progressing well ahead of normal. Harvest was underway in areas from the central Corn Belt southward with progress well ahead of the 5-year average in Tennessee, Kentucky, and North Carolina.

Soybeans: Soybeans at or beyond the leaf dropping stage, at 32 percent, were ahead of last year and the 5-year average by 7 points. Twenty-eight percent or more of the acreage began dropping leaves in the northern Great Plains and adjacent areas of the Corn Belt. Progress during the week was only slightly less rapid in Iowa and the eastern Corn Belt, as nearly 20 percent began dropping leaves.

Winter Wheat: Six percent of winter wheat acreage had been planted, 2 and 4 points behind last year and the 5-year average, respectively. Planting was underway in the Great Plains and Pacific Northwest, as well as California and Michigan, but had not yet started in the Corn Belt. Progress was behind normal in the Great Plains but ahead of normal in the Pacific Northwest.

Weather Data For Week Ending September 16, 2007

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - September 16, 2007					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	82	46	63	-3	1.14	5	18.17	-2.49	54	2,592	288	4,112
Franklin	81	42	61	-3	0.85	4	18.50	-4.54	66	2,438	286	3,980
Meadville	78	43	61	-2	0.87	5	16.79	-6.16	68	2,466	493	3,995
Mercer	81	42	61	-3	0.69	3	20.61	-1.31	63	2,398	267	3,932
Springboro	79	43	60	-5	1.37	5	19.77	-0.47	79	2,133	-143	3,636
Warren	81	40	60	-3	2.26	4	22.86	-0.20	66	2,217	130	3,732
North Central												
Bradford Region	74	32	56	-3	1.79	4	20.64	-2.45	74	1,737	215	3,190
Emporium	77	42	62	3	0.75	3	24.66	1.70	65	2,282	565	3,814
Kane	79	32	57	-1	1.34	4	24.05	0.59	67	1,760	267	3,219
Laporte	79	37	58	-5	1.54	4	18.58	-2.68	70	2,064	-73	3,551
Lock Haven	84	39	64	1	1.48	4	14.85	-6.09	52	2,704	439	4,248
Port Allegany	80	37	59	1	1.44	3	19.20	-2.60	63	1,926	249	3,401
Renovo	79	42	63	0	1.24	3	20.53	-0.41	57	2,573	308	4,116
Ridgway	77	36	59	-1	0.98	3	19.56	-3.40	70	1,992	275	3,492
Stevenson Dam	78	42	63	4	0.57	4	17.25	-5.71	58	2,402	685	3,931
Towanda	80	37	61	-1	1.05	3	15.31	-2.36	64	2,269	116	3,765
Wellsboro	72	35	57	-3	0.43	4	22.50	4.77	71	1,905	286	3,376
Williamsport	83	41	64	0	1.14	4	16.08	-4.54	56	2,886	389	4,454
Northeast												
Hawley	84	37	61	2	0.27	3	20.68	0.57	58	2,133	284	3,641
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	85	40	64	1	0.92	2	19.03	-0.49	54	2,618	248	4,165
Susquehanna	78	39	61	3	1.53	4	22.97	1.54	65	2,219	462	3,725
West Central												
Butler	79	39	61	-3	0.73	4	18.73	-3.12	62	2,432	203	3,972
New Castle	82	44	63	-1	0.61	2	18.28	-1.59	58	2,673	442	4,224
Slippery Rock	83	42	63	1	0.48	3	20.92	-0.34	62	2,564	556	4,110
Central												
Altoona/Blair	80	37	63	-2	0.67	4	19.10	0.17	65	2,562	189	4,103
DuBois	76	37	60	-2	0.54	5	18.95	-3.00	73	2,323	264	3,849
Lewistown	83	40	65	-1	0.81	4	20.34	-0.03	58	2,748	145	4,302
Middletown	86	46	69	2	1.51	4	19.70	-0.47	49	3,272	338	4,851
Prince Gallitzi	80	35	60	-2	0.98	4	20.57	-3.82	57	2,169	257	3,681
Selinsgrove	83	39	65	2	0.51	3	14.86	-6.23	51	2,713	276	4,258
State College	81	43	64	1	1.19	4	17.14	-1.99	58	2,736	392	4,284
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	86	42	67	2	0.40	4	21.45	-0.66	62	2,898	213	4,458
Lehighton	80	42	64	-1	0.67	4	25.43	3.50	66	2,541	-52	4,089
Matamoras	85	37	63	0	0.85	3	23.19	1.00	60	2,326	-19	3,858
Mt_Pocono	78	38	60	3	0.78	5	21.86	-1.72	74	2,124	511	3,622
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	79	39	64	-1	0.68	6	19.99	-0.22	65	2,990	605	4,558
Derry	79	39	63	-2	0.75	4	29.66	8.56	60	2,513	260	4,053
Myersdale	80	33	60	-5	1.31	4	19.59	-3.36	64	1,993	-227	3,483
Mount Pleasant	79	36	62	-1	0.73	4	23.89	-0.11	63	2,465	450	4,014
Pittsburgh Intl	79	39	63	-3	0.96	3	19.33	0.29	57	2,892	396	4,455
Connellsville	79	41	65	-1	1.24	4	22.88	0.39	72	2,828	287	4,391
Waynesburg	79	38	63	-2	1.54	4	21.18	0.31	63	2,627	312	4,183
South Central												
Biglerville	86	41	67	-1	0.55	3	16.74	-2.19	51	3,013	147	4,585
Everett	81	37	62	-3	1.79	4	19.86	1.46	63	2,223	-140	3,754
Hanover	91	38	68	1	0.34	3	15.79	-3.14	49	2,975	109	4,538
Harrisburg_AP	86	42	68	1	1.66	3	16.76	-3.41	43	3,172	231	4,754
South Mountain	81	37	63	-1	0.64	4	19.24	0.31	55	2,408	42	3,941
York	86	38	67	0	0.38	3	19.80	-0.61	50	2,892	40	4,462
Southeast												
Green Lane	86	43	68	3	0.59	3	22.85	1.42	58	2,948	381	4,509
Hamburg	86	44	68	5	0.76	5	22.46	-2.18	58	3,014	664	4,581
West_Chester	88	39	67	1	0.27	3	24.20	0.99	50	2,890	43	4,447
Lancaster	85	42	67	2	0.92	4	21.81	0.23	48	2,972	259	4,541
Neshaminy Falls	88	43	67	2	1.08	4	29.01	4.14	58	2,775	94	4,322
New Holland	86	43	67	2	0.66	3	22.44	0.86	54	3,066	353	4,628
Philadelphia	89	50	72	4	0.40	3	22.57	1.46	48	3,492	384	5,084
Philadelphia NE	91	48	72	3	0.55	4	23.05	1.94	58	3,438	330	5,030
Reading	86	43	68	3	0.90	4	21.74	-1.32	58	3,121	453	4,693
Valley Forge Na	90	44	68	0	0.46	3	23.36	0.98	62	2,939	-74	4,508
Willow Grove	89	45	69	4	0.57	3	22.47	-2.40	63	3,093	412	4,660

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A Behney - Adams County started out hot and humid with daytime temps in the 80's and nighttime temps in the 60's. The county had a nice rain on Tuesday of this week where most areas received 3/4 of an inch of beneficial rainfall. It wasn't a lot but helps with soil moisture level. Thursday morning temperature was in the higher 50 degrees which felt like fall is around the corner.

Corn silage continues to be harvested. Some of the corn that will be harvested as grain will be harvested next week. Corn is still the most affected crop from the drought. Soybeans continue to grow and pods are filling out. Barley is being seeded although some producers are worried about lack of soil moisture for germination. Soil continues to be prepared for seeding of wheat in a few weeks. Hay continues to be made because the producers are trying to get all of the forage they can since they had to start feeding winter supplies this summer.

Peach harvest is complete. Most producers had a decent crop of peaches this year but tended to be smaller in size due to the drought. Apples continue to be harvested. Apples are smaller in size this year but are plentiful. Some trees have branches touching the ground due to apple load. Producers say the bud set for 2008 may be affected due to the drought.

Overall the producers are busy with all types of fieldwork and will continue to be busy putting in long hours each day. Any future rainfall that we receive will benefit the soil moisture level.

ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - No significant rain again this week, sunny and windy days are contributing to significant crop stress. Fall seedings are sprouting from the moisture in the soil from several weeks ago, but need rain to make further growth. Week was good for all types of field work including hay making, silage harvesting, hauling manure, and planting wheat and barley. Apple harvest is now under way and quality is good, but lack of size will affect the payout to the producer.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little - Producers are beginning to harvest corn silage. Potato harvesting is one of the main activities this week. There were a couple days of rain that kept the producers out of the fields. The night temperatures were cooler than normal with some frost in areas. Temperatures were mild all week.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - This was a good week for fall field work. There was 1 inch of rainfall in my gauge.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - Farmers are busy preparing for corn silage harvest. Some have already started but this week will see the most activity. Pasture conditions are showing some good re-growth with the cool and wet weather which should put extra pounds on the feeders for this fall.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig - The corn and bean crops are rapidly maturing. We got some mid-week rain but with varying amounts (0.3 - 1.2 inches). Still short soil moisture conditions. Growers' are anticipating 3/4 of a crop of corn and perhaps slightly better bean crop. But then the statement is made "it's not in the bin yet."

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner - Counties Clarion, Venango, Forest, and Warren did get freezing temperatures in some areas. Two days of light frost. Many producers are in the process of harvesting 3rd and fourth crops hay. The fourth crops having good to excellent yields. Also many producers are in the process of harvesting corn silage. It appears the yields are less than last years harvest. Many producers in Northern Venango County are saying yields are being estimated about 20% less of last year. Potatoes are being harvested. Quality of potatoes is appearing to be a lot better than last year. Oats crop yields and quality are poor. Some producers in Venango County having to use winter feed to supplement pastures due to the dry conditions of July and August.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Axel Linde - No measurable amount of rain for several weeks. Corn is drying down rapidly, soybeans are losing their leaves, and fall is here. Still lots of tobacco out in the fields. At least no soil compaction from heavy harvesting equipment or manure spreaders. Still a nice crop year compared to some dry areas.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr - Harvesting is really in high gear. Farmers are busy making hay, planting hay, liming fields, installing conservation practices, shelling corn, cutting tobacco and mowing pastures. A few areas had crops go down from the high winds last week.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeffrey Graybill - Rain in the northern end of the county will make a nice last cutting and get fall seedings up and running. Rainfall in the southern end would be very welcome for the same purpose.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield - Very dry conditions continue. Some variable rains this past week gave some 3/4" and others 1/4". Silage harvest is wrapping up. Early corn is ready for harvest and I expect to see combines running this week. Some very good yields in parts of the county others looking at half a crop.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - Light rain at the beginning of the week. It was a good week for haymaking and silo filling. The third cutting of hay is better than the second and the fourth is looking good at this point. The main activities for the week were silo filling, haymaking, sowing barley and cover crops.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr - Corn for silage is yielding very well with good grain content. Drier weather has helped the harvest. Soybeans are turning and still looking like a very good crop. There is still some very nice later-cutting alfalfa to be harvest. Temperatures have cooled dramatically with late week morning readings in the 40's.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending September 16, 2007

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	34	27	27
Corn, dough	100	96	94
Corn, dent	85	83	78
Corn, mature	53	42	38
Corn, harvested	11	9	11
Corn silage, harvested	58	64	57
Barley, planted	11	11	19
Wheat, planted	8	9	9
Tobacco, harvested	83	78	87
Potatoes, harvested	29	47	50
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	49	37	41
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	86	89	88
Apples, harvested	55	48	42
Grapes, harvested	5	4	15

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending September 16, 2007

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	17	12	20	40	11
Soybeans	7	16	29	28	20
Quality of hay made	1	3	15	42	39
Pasture	11	25	43	19	2
Apples	0	0	6	65	29

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